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ACTION IO-11

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TAGS: ECE, EAGR, CSCE

SUBJECT: ECE - COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, 27TH SESSION,
GENEVA FEBRUARY 16-20, 1976

1. SUMMARY: ECE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS OPENED
27TH SESSION, GENEVA, FEB 16, WITH ADOPTION OF AGENDA
(ECE/AGR/20) AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS. OPENING SESSION
ADDRESSED BY ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JANEZ STANOVNIK, WHO
DISCUSSED ROLE OF COMMITTEE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL ACT
OF CSCE. AMONG NOTABLE ITEMS IN STANOVNIK STATEMENT WERE
REMARKS RE CONTRAST BETWEEN US AND USSR AGRICULTURAL
SITUATIONS, COMMENDATION OF US/USSR GRAIN AGREEMENT, AND
EMPHASIS ON CONTINUING ECE FOCUS ON EAST-WEST COOPERATION
(NOTWITHSTANDING ATTENTION TO AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES). END SUMMARY.

2. M BESSON OF SWITZERLAND WAS RE-ELECTED COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN TO COMPLETE TRADITIONAL TWO-YEAR TERM. J HAMMER,
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VICE MINISTER, HUNGARIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD,
WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN, SUCCEEDING K KAZARECZKI, WHO

UNABLE TO ATTEND SESSION.

3. STANOVNIK NOTED THAT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS WAS LAST OF ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES TO MEET PRIOR TO 31ST SESSION OF ECE (AND THEREFORE LAST TO HEAR HIS EXHORTATIONS RE AN ACTIVE ECE ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE). HE NOTED THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMITTEE WAS EXCELLENT AND ITS WORK PROGRAM WELL ESTABLISHED. MOREOVER, THE FINAL ACT RELATED TO THE COMMITTEE IN GENERAL TENOR, BUT GAVE IT NO SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS. THEREFORE NO MAJOR REVISIONS IN WORK PROGRAM REQUIRED.

4. AS WITH OTHER ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES, HOWEVER, STANOVNIK APPEALED TO COMMITTEE FOR MORE LONG TERM THINKING, INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES ON OVERALL ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE. HE NOTED THAT FORECASTING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WAS TOO DIFFICULT DUE TO UNPREDICTABILITY OF WEATHER BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON FUTURE AGRICULTURAL POLICIES COULD USEFULLY BE UNDERTAKEN. REFERRING TO NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN VIEW OF PARTICULAR INTERDEPENDENCE IN AGRICULTURE, STANOVNIK NOTED TREMENDOUS EXPANSION OF NORTH AMERICA AS CEREALS EXPORTER SINCE PRE-WORLD WAR II, WHILE EASTERN EUROPE HAD SHIFTED FROM MAJOR EXPORTER TO MAJOR IMPORTER. IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED CONTRAST IN CLIMATE BETWEEN US AND USSR (MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY HISTORICAL DIFFERENCES) AND DRASTIC CHANGES IN WEATHER FROM YEAR TO YEAR. LATTER, HE SAID, RAISED NEED FOR FORUM (ECE) WHERE GOVERNMENT REPS COULD MEET ONCE OR SEVERAL TIMES PER YEAR TO DISCUSS SITUATION. HE ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER SPECIALIZATION AND REFERRED TO RECENT US/USSR GRAIN AGREEMENT AS STEP OF TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE, NOT ONLY FOR SIZE BUT ALSO AS "INSTRUMENT WHICH BRINGS ELEMENT OF STABILITY."

5. STANOVNIK ALSO CALLED FOR ATTENTION OF COMMITTEE TO SELECTED TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (E.G. WORKING PARTIES ON FARM RATIONALIZATION AND AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION). IN THIS REGARD HE REFERRED TO CONTRAST BETWEEN US WHICH HAD HIGH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY BUT UNEMPLOYMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AND USSR, WHICH HAD LOW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY BUT FULL EMPLOYEMENT, AND TO HIGH SENSITIVITY OF MODERN, HIGHLY CAPITALIZED AGRICULTURE TO ECONOMIC DISRUPTION. IN ADDITION, HE EMPHASIZED ATTENTION TO ENERGY USE, ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT AND LAND UTILIZATION.

6. WHILE REFERRING TO RESPONSIBILITY OF ECE COUNTRIES IN COMBATTING FOOD DEFICIT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SUGGESTING THAT COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, SINCE THOSE IN REGION

ARE HIGHLY AGRICULTURE INTENSIVE, STANOVNIK TWICE EMPHASIZED THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST WAS "FOCAL POINT" AND "CENTRAL LINE" OF ECE ACTIVITY AND THAT HE DID NOT PROPOSE THAT IT DEPART FROM THIS MANDATE.

7. IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT BY FRG DELEGATE THAT WORTH OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS DEPENDED ON THEIR CONTENT AND SUGGESTION THAT US/USSR AGREEMENT SMACKED OF "DIRIGISME", STANOVNIK AGREED IN PRINCIPAL RE BILATERALS BUT SAW US/USSR AGREEMENT AS "MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENT."

8. COMMENT: IN STRESSING NATURAL CAUSES OF SOVIET AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS AND ESSENTIAL EAST-WEST ORIENTATION OF ECE, STANOVNIK REFLECTED SENSITIVITY TO RECENT ENCOUNTERS WITH USSR IN MEETINGS OF SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISERS AND SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISERS ON ABILITY OF MARXIST THEORY TO ANTICIPATE ALL FORMS OF ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (GENEVA 1003) AS WELL AS SOVIET DISPLEASURE WITH WHAT IT SEES AS NEW NORTH-SOUTH FOCUS FOR ECE ENVISIONED IN HIS REPORT (E/ECE/900) TO 31ST SESSION OF ECE (GENEVA 276, STATE 3457). USSR DEL ASKED FOR FLOOR IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF STANOVNIK STATEMENT, BUT LIMITED REMARKS LARGELY TO COMPLIMENTING STANOVNIK AND INVITING DELEGATES TO COCKTAIL PARTY. DALE

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